

# Attention: Local Hospital to Close in less than 120 Days Please read this important message

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West Contra Costa Healthcare District  
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## The Future of Healthcare in West County Important Questions and Answers

### Why is Doctors Medical Center/Brookside Hospital on the verge of closing?

In just 120 days the current operator of Doctors Medical Center/Brookside Hospital will pull out. Without immediate intervention by the community, this hospital and its Emergency Room will close.

### What medical services will be lost if the hospital closes?

Doctors Medical Center/Brookside Hospital is the busiest full-service hospital and emergency facility in West County. This hospital is our community's primary emergency facility and it serves all West County residents. If this hospital closes, we will lose the following essential healthcare services:

- ✓ Complete Emergency Room services close to home
- ✓ Rapid-response, state-of-the-art care for heart attacks and cardiac care
- ✓ Emergency respiratory care in case of a toxic chemical release at local refineries
- ✓ Critical care for mothers and their new babies
- ✓ Our regional Burn Center
- ✓ A full range of cancer treatments and our regional Cancer Center
- ✓ New technology for diagnosis and treatment of health problems

### Will emergency response times be affected if the hospital closes?

Yes. Right now, no West County resident is more than a 10 minute ambulance ride from an Emergency Room. If the hospital closes the nearest Emergency Room would be up to 45 minutes away.

### I've never used Doctors Medical Center/Brookside Hospital. How would the hospital closing effect me?

Even if you belong to another health plan or have not used Doctors Medical Center/Brookside Hospital in the past, an ambulance would take you to the closest hospital Emergency Room in an emergency. For most West County residents, that's Doctors Medical Center/Brookside Hospital. Also, if Doctors Emergency Room closes, the Emergency Room you may have used in the past will be overwhelmed with many of the 40,000 patients who now go to Doctors Medical Center/Brookside Hospital.

### What if I have more questions?

For more information contact the West Contra Costa Healthcare District at (510) 243-9591

# Five Facts You Should Know About Healthcare in West County

**FACT** In just 120 days our local hospital and Emergency Room will close. This will create a healthcare crisis in our community.

1



**FACT** Victims of heart attacks, strokes, automobile accidents, and other emergencies who depend on the Emergency Room at Doctors Medical Center/Brookside Hospital will need to be re-routed to other hospitals.

2



**FACT** Right now, no West County resident is more than a ten-minute ambulance ride from an Emergency Room. If our hospital closes, emergency response times will increase to up to 45 minutes.

3



**FACT** Each year 40,000 people use the Emergency Room at Doctors Medical Center/Brookside Hospital. If this hospital closes, these people will have to go to other, already overcrowded, Emergency Rooms - leading to long lines and wait times.

4



**FACT** The doctors and nurses that provide care to local residents are doing everything possible to keep this hospital open. But to do it, we're going to need your help.

5

